

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the comments which follow.

Claims 1 and 9-17 were pending in this application, with claims 2-8 withdrawn. In this response, claim 11 has been amended and claims 1-10 canceled. Thus, claims 11-17 remain pending.

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations in the original disclosure: the original claims.

Entry of the foregoing is appropriate pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 for at least the following reasons. The amendments raise no new issues that would necessitate further search and/or substantive reexamination, cancels non-elected claims without prejudice or disclaimer, and writes an allowable dependent claim in independent form, leaving all pending claims allowable.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 11-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 11-17. By the present response, claim 11 has been written in independent form to place it and dependent claims 12-17 in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,659,026 to Krause et al. (hereafter "*Krause et al.*") on the grounds set forth on

page 2 of the Official Action. Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,029,761 to Bechler (hereafter "*Bechler*") on the grounds set forth on page 2 of the Official Action. Both of these rejections have been obviated by the present amendments, by which claims 1 and 9 have been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

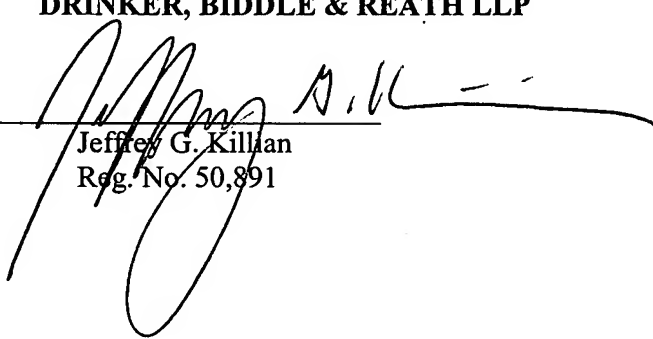
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested and such action is earnestly solicited. In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully.

Respectfully submitted,

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